

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	EAS.62
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Webb, Rev. Benjamin House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1955 Bridge Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Eastham
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Eastham Center
<b>Local No:</b>	14-155
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Parsonage; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce; Military; Religion; Transportation
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Cedar Shingle Wall: Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

P1. EAST

EAS. 62

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's  
 Number

14/155

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

62

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

1955 Bridge Road

Public Name

Present Residential

Original

"

Construction 1720

See Bibliography\*

Form Center-chimney, Full Cape Cod  
 House Form

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Shingles

Roof Cedar Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Barn

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

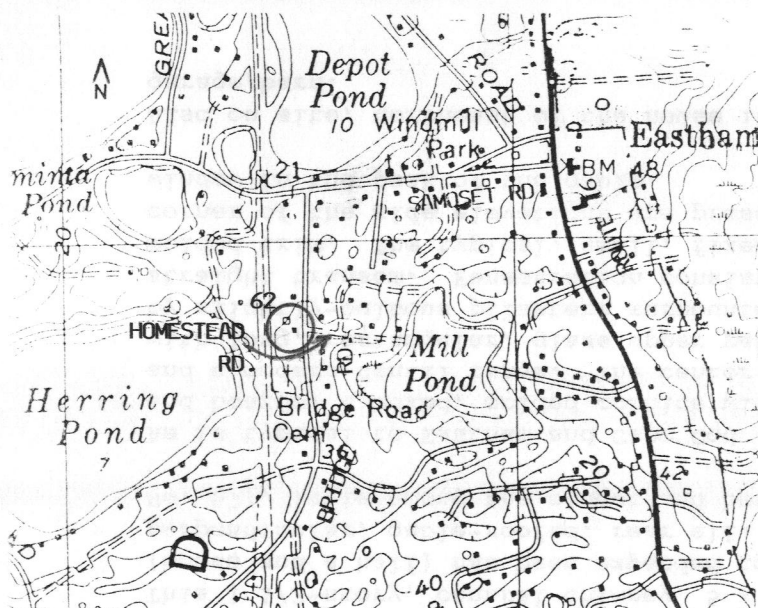
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 1.1 Acres

Setting Located just N of the Bridge Road  
 Cemetery opposite the T intersection of  
 Homestead Road on a secondary road in a  
 moderately-settled, rural area.



here. Indicate North.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej  
 and Sanford Johnson  
 Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: August 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

## BUILDING FORM

1955 Bridge Road

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION        See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This 1 1/2-story, central chimney, 5 x 2-bay, rectangular, full cape house (house and a half) has been expanded to the rear with a 1 1/2-story, perpendicular, gable-roofed, rear ell. Along with 225 Bridge Road (see Form No. 57), it is among the oldest and best preserved houses in Eastham.

As is typical to Eastham and Cape Cod in general, detail is spare, limited to end boards, a boxed, molded cornice with small return set close to the eaves and a modern dentil range. The center entry of a 4-panel, Italianate door with long, rectangular, glass upper panels, has a simple surround enhanced by slightly-bulbous pilasters surmounted by a dentil range and 4-light, straight transom. Fenestration consists of 6/6, double-hung sash with molded trim. The typical, small, fixed-sash windows near eave level at the corner of the side elevations are present along with an additional, similar window in the peak of the gable.

Also on site, northeast of the house is a tall, narrow modern, gable-roofed garage/barn.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE   X   See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Rogers map of 1795 and the Hales map of 1831 indicate Bridge Road was laid out during the Federal Period. The reconnaissance report of the Massachusetts Historical Commission describes the road as a local loop off King's Highway. A meetinghouse was built in the area by 1720 and a school was built in 1762. By 1831, there were saltworks, several residences and a shallow canal from the Boat Meadow River to Town Cove near the southern end of Bridge Road. The road was extended north in 1837 when a bridge was constructed over the Boat Meadow River and accorded a name to the route. Agriculture played an important role in the development of Eastham from the Colonial Period through the Early Modern Period.

According to Alice Lowe, Howard Quinn and deed research completed in 1991 and 1992 by Fred Heller of the Eastham Historical Society, this house was built in 1720 as a parsonage for the first minister of the Central Precinct of Eastham, Benjamin Webb. Webb graduated from Harvard University in 1715 and accepted the call to Eastham. He retained his office until his death in 1746. His widow lived in the house until 1751 when it transferred to Edward Cheever, also a graduate of Harvard (1737), who succeeded her husband as minister. Revered Cheever bequeathed his property to his wife and children.

Thomas Crosby purchased the various shares of the property from Cheever's heirs in 1808 and 1809 and operated the house as a tavern. This section of Bridge Road was part of King's Highway and on the Stage Route.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES   X   See continuation sheet.

  X   Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

It was during Crosby's ownership that British soldiers captured during the War of 1812 may have been held prisoner in the cellar.

In 1838, the property came under the control of the Nickerson family who remained in residence for seventy years. J. W. Nickerson is the owner noted on the 1858 map of Eastham. Joshua W. Nickerson is noted in the 1865 tax assessments for Eastham as the owner of a boat, nets, a horse, two cows, tillage land, and woodland indicating he was both farmer and fisherman, a common combination in Eastham for earning a living. In 1865, Joshua Nickerson bequeath his homestead to his two sons, William H. and John D. Nickerson. The 1908 map of Eastham attributes the property to William H. Nickerson, a farmer.

Subsequently, members of the Hurd family remained owners of the property well into the 1950's.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

\*House File, 1995 Bridge Road, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

\*Quinn, Howard. Transcript of Oral History Tape, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Lowe, Alice Alberta. Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham. (Falmouth: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), p. 75.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Report: Eastham, Massachusetts.

Hales, John G. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1830.

Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, 1901.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

\_\_\_\_\_. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston Walker Lithographer and Publishing Co., 1908.

Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.





Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Eastham  
Property Address: 1955 Bridge Road

Area Form No. 62

### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district  
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The property at 1955 Bridge Road is significant on a local level with regard to the above-referenced criteria as one of the oldest, best preserved and most picturesque examples of the full Cape Cod house form (double house) in Eastham. It is also significant for its role in Eastham history as the parsonage associated with the second Congregational meeting house in Eastham and its subsequent utilization as a tavern on Kings Highway.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file \_\_\_\_\_  
Copies: Inventory form ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Town file(w/corresp.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Macris \_\_\_\_\_  
NR director \_\_\_\_\_

EAS.62

Community: Eastham

**MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date Received: 10/16/95

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 12/6/95

Type: ☒ Individual

☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name:

Inventory Form: EAS.62

Address: 1955 Bridge Road

Requested by: Eastham Historical Commission

Action: ☒ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

☐ Eligible  
☐ Eligible, also in district  
☐ Eligible only in district  
☐ Ineligible  
☒ More information needed

**DISTRICTS**

☐ Eligible  
☐ Ineligible  
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

LEVEL: ☐ Local ☐ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Betsy Friedberg

More information on the historic and architectural significance of this ca. 1720 5-bay central-entry full Cape would be necessary in order to justify individual eligibility.